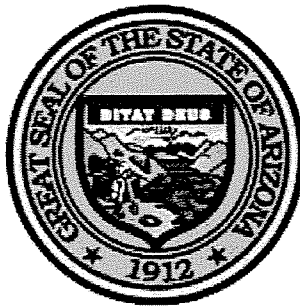


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, April 28, 2005

***GOVERNOR NAMES NEW HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR***  
***Susan Gerard "brings years of experience and understanding"***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano announced today that she has named Susan Gerard to the job of Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services. Gerard will replace Catherine Eden, who is retiring.

Gerard has given years of her time to the benefit of Arizona. A Republican, Gerard served in the state Legislature from 1988 to 2002, receiving awards for her leadership, and honors from all the major health organizations in Arizona, including the Arizona Hospital Association, Arizona Medical Association and the Arizona Public Health Association.

During her legislative career, Gerard directed the effort to create the Child Fatality Review Program to reduce preventable child deaths using a cross-disciplinary approach. She also led a yearlong study and implemented one of the country's first advance health care directive programs.

Most recently, Gerard has served as a member of Governor Napolitano's administration as a policy adviser for health care issues.

"We did a nationwide search, and Susan was immediately among the top candidates," said Governor Napolitano. "She brings years of experience and understanding of complex health care issues – including disease prevention, Medicaid and Medicare, public health and behavioral health. I believe she can lead DHS in the right direction."

John Rivers, President and CEO of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association added, "Susan is not only a very knowledgeable and competent person, she is a health care champion who strongly advocates for the uninsured. Having Sue Gerard at the helm of DHS is wonderful news for Arizona."

David Landrith, Vice President of Policy and Political Affairs for the Arizona Medical Association added, "Susan Gerard is an intelligent, competent woman with a vast knowledge of health care in Arizona. Her legislative service as health committee chair in both the House and the Senate, plus her recent experience as the Governor's health policy adviser uniquely qualifies her to assume leadership of ADHS at this critical time. We look forward to working with her on public health issues of concern to our citizens and patients."

Gerard will take over at ADHS in mid-May, and will earn an annual salary of \$125,000.